and increasing national competitiveness. The composition of the Group of Minister is as under:

Shri L.K. Advani — Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Murasoli Maran — Minister of Commerce & Industry
Shri Kashiram Rana — Minister of Textiles
Shri Yashwant Sinha — Minister of Finance
Shri K.C. Pant — Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
Smt. Vasundhara Raje — Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personal, Public Grievances and Pensions, and Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.

The issues are still under consideration of the Group of Ministers.

Action to Boost Textiles Exports

2006. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) the amount of textile exports during each of the last five years in terms of dollar.

(b) the amount of textile imports during the said years; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to boost textile exports by the Indian Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The textile exports and imports during the last five years are given below:—

(in US Million dollar)

Year	Exports*	Imports**
1995-1996	10685.1	952.2
1996-1997	11839.1	765.0
1997-1998	12342.1	824.2
1998-1999	12558.8	839.8
1999-2000	13324.8(P)	1051.8(P)

(P) Provisional
*As per Data reported by Textile Export Promotion Councils.
**As per DGCI&S data

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for boosting textile exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.

(2) The current Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 is expected to provide stability with continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(5) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.

(6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.

Jute Packaging Order

2007. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have reduced the percentage of Jute packaging to be used by different Industries compulsorily as advised by the Supreme Court in its earlier Jute Packaging Order;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;